

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting failures that [can result] resulting from multiple failure modes in an analyzer for conducting clinical assays comprising:
 - a). providing an analyzer for [conduction] conducting clinical assays [that can have] having multiple failure modes,
 - b) identifying potential errors that [can result] resulting in assay failures in the analyzer
 - c) identifying potential sources of the potential errors identified in b),
 - d) determining the probability that an error source so identified will result in a clinically significant error,
 - e) identifying potential error detection measures corresponding to the source of potential errors,
 - f) selecting and implementing multiple error detection measures for each failure mode based on their probability of reducing errors to an acceptable limit along with a low probability of the false detection of an assay failure.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of selecting error detection measures is done quantitatively.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 conducted in an automated manner.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 conducted by employing linear programming processes.

Claims 5 – 17 (cancelled)